

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 12 are amended, claim 14 is canceled, and new claim 15 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have canceled claim 14, which was withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner because it is directed to a nonelected invention. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 14 in a continuing application.

**§ 102 Rejection**

Claims 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schott, Jr. (U.S. 3,980,418). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Schott discloses a bubble guide assembly 18 for use in a blown film process of extruding tubes. The guide assembly includes guide members 20 that are aligned in a circular arrangement so as to extend around an outer surface of the tube 14. The guide members are interconnected with a series of shafts 30, 34, arms 32, rods 42, cranks 40 and rings 36 that are used to vary the shape and relative arrangement of the guide members 20 to accommodate different tube sizes. Thus, in order to adjust the position of any given guide member 20, the position of adjacent interconnected guide members are also adjusted. Therefore, Schott fails to disclose "lamellae being individually adjustable radially relative to the outer surface of the pipe without altering the radial position of the other lamellae," as required by claim 7 and the claims that depend from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claim 15 has been added and includes substantially the same limitations as original claim 1, and further includes a third lamellae ring. The first, second and third lamellae rings of

claim 15 are interlocked in a continuous mesh along the longitudinal axis of the calibration station, similar to the limitation of claim 13. The embodiment of claim 15 is clearly supported by at least Figure 3 of the current application.

Schott discloses pairs of guide members 20 positioned at spaced intervals along the longitudinal axis of the bubble guide. Schott fails to disclose "first, second and third lamellae rings interlocking in a continuous mesh along the longitudinal axis of the calibrating station whereby the inner diameter of the first, second and third lamellae rings to find an inner tubular core sized to receive the plastic pipe," as required by claim 15. Applicants further submit that the other art of record, alone or in combination with Schott, fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of new claim 15. Therefore, Applicants request consideration of allowance of claim 15.

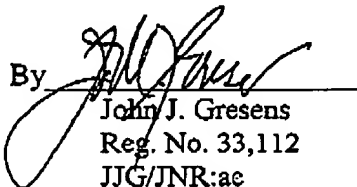
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues related to this matter, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at 612.371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
Post Office Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 371-5265

Dated: October 27, 2003

By

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112  
JJG/JNR:ac

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 27 2003

OFFICIAL